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 PRESS RELEASE BY SENATOR JOHN C. STENNIS  
 CHAIRMAN, SENATE COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES  
 THURSDAY, OCTOBER 21, 1971

RE: MILITARY PROCUREMENT

House and Senate conferees, resolving money differences between the House and Senate military procurement bills, agreed today on a \$21.3 billion conference total.

The money decisions were final and, by action of the conferees, are not subject to reconsideration. Still to be resolved are differences over a number of language provisions.

Senator John C. Stennis (D-Miss.), Chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee who served as Chairman of the Conference, said after the meeting "The conference agreement will provide all the hardware needed to assure that the bone and muscle of military programs will not be impaired."

Senator Stennis noted that the total authorization, as approved by the Senate-House conferees, was \$906 million below the amended Administration request. The summary is as follows:

(\$ in Millions)

	<u>Amended Request</u>	<u>House</u>	<u>Senate</u>	<u>Conferees</u>
Procurement	\$14,089.0	\$13,105.8	\$13,301.6	\$13,413.9
R&D	<u>7,950.8</u>	<u>7,963.3</u>	<u>7,605.2</u>	<u>7,793.4</u>
	\$22,039.8	\$21,069.1	\$20,906.8	\$21,207.3
 SAFEGUARD Construction	 <u>183.6</u>	 <u>183.6</u>	 <u>109.6</u>	 <u>109.6</u>
	\$22,223.3	\$21,252.7	\$21,016.4	\$21,316.9

Highlights of the Conference Committee's actions, as announced by Chairman Stennis were:

SAFEGUARD Anti-Ballistic Missile: Approved Senate funding of \$1.1 billion and Senate language restricting deployment authority to 2 sites and advanced preparation to 2 others.

C-5A Transport: Approved a Senate total of \$374 million, incorporating a Senate-approved reduction of \$72.2 million. (Restrictive language is still under discussion.)

C-130 Transport: Approved House total of \$40.8 million, rejecting a Senate deletion.

HARRIER V/STOL Interceptor: Approved \$95.2 million House authorization for Marine Corps, rejecting a \$24 million Senate addition which would have phased production of the British-built aircraft into the United States.

Main Battle Tank: Approved \$62.8 million research and development effort, designed to produce 6 prototypes as voted by the Senate, rejecting a House reduction.

F-14 Navy Fighter: Approved \$801.6 million in 48-plane program which had been approved by the Senate and had been rejected without prejudice by the House, pending Pentagon clarification, later supplied.

Replenishment Oiler: Approved House authorization of \$56.5 million for replenishment vessel which was rejected by the Senate.

Nuclear Attack Submarine: Approved \$22.5 million authorization for long lead time items for an additional nuclear attack submarine as added by the Senate.

Nuclear Frigate: Approved House language to require that contracts for advanced procurement for the DLGN-41 shall be entered into as soon as practicable, unless the President advises Congress that construction is not in the national interest.

Language differences, still to be settled, include the Senate-approved end-the-war amendment sponsored by Senator Mike Mansfield (D-Mont.), a ceiling on spending for the war in Laos, a provision which would have the effect of ending the import restrictions on chrome ore from Rhodesia, and amendments relating to military pay and pay of civilian employees.